

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The priority papers were filed with the original application papers and their receipt was acknowledged in the above-mentioned Examiner's Action. The undersigned hereby reiterates the priority claim made in the earlier-filed Declaration.

The specification has been amended to eliminate some minor obvious errors. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

The claims have been amended slightly to improve their language somewhat.

The claims stand rejected on a combination of the admitted prior art and the teachings of US 5,728,226 of Hoyt.

The admitted prior art detailed in the Background section of this application is that it is known, when apertures of a spinneret head become partly clogged or fouled, to plug them. This is mainly done so as not to extrude undersized filaments. Since a spinneret may have a very large number of such apertures, plugging a few of them does not significantly reduce its effectiveness.

The plugs are described as being of graphite, made from a graphite/clay mixture and basically fired into a "ceramic." (original application text, page 2, line 24). There is absolutely nothing in this admitted prior art to suggest that the plugs contain, as recited in claim 1 an "oxidizable substance which, upon oxidative decomposition destroys the plugs." Instead the plugs are described as being a "ceramic," and it is well known that most ceramics resist oxidative decomposition, especially within the temperature ranged recited in the dependent claims.

US '226 of Hoyt nowhere mentions any form of oxidation. Indeed the word "oxidize" and "oxidation" are not present in this reference. The only heat is a discussion of prior-art methods using high temperatures, but they are described as being disadvantageous and in fact Hoyt is aimed at avoiding such steps.

Going further, the basic invention of Hoyt is using a supercritical fluid (SCF) to clean a nozzle head. This supercritical fluid described in column 1, lines 27ff as follows:

A supercritical fluid (SCF) results when a material is elevated to a temperature above its critical temperature and a pressure above its critical pressure. It is known that heavy non-volatile substances dissolve in supercritical fluids (dense gases, compressed gases, supercritical gases, high-pressure gases), typically 2-7 orders of magnitude in excess of the amount based on the ideal gas law. This is due to the high density of the

fluid, which can approach that of a liquid. Thus, supercritical fluids offer both high solubility extraction based on the enhancement of vapor pressure and nearly complete solvent-extract separation which is accomplished by reducing solvent density to the gaseous state.

In fact the whole invention of Hoyt is to use such a supercritical fluid, and thereby avoid the use of "extreme elevated temperatures" (column 1, line 33).

Thus taking the teachings of the APA and Hoyt together, the following can be seen:

1. There is no teaching of blocking a spinner aperture with a plug consisting in part of a substance that can be oxidized to destroy the plug. The only described plugs are in the APA and they are ceramic so that the temperatures necessary to destroy them would be far above the temperatures capable of melting the normally steel aperture plate.

2. There is no suggestion anywhere of "oxidizing" anything to clean a spinner head. Instead the APA discusses "prolific" action that is not oxidation, and Hoyt uses solvent action that is accelerated by using a hot and pressurized liquid.

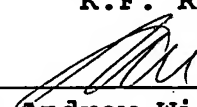
Thus at least two claimed elements of the instant invention are novel:

1. Using an oxidizable plug to block a spinner aperture,
and
2. Oxidizing the plug in an operation separate from the
prolific decomposition of plastic in the mold.

Hence the claims in this case are clearly allowable under
§103 over the APA and cited references. Notice to that effect is
earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means
of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this
case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the
necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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